Vol. III. Numb. 45.

The British Apollo:

OR,

Curious Amusements for the INGENIOUS.

To which are Added the most

Material Occurrences Foreign and Domestick.

Perform'd by some of the Society of GENTLEMEN, Concern'd in the First and Second VOLUME, with the Assistance of other Ingenious PERSONS.

From Friday July 7th. to Monday July 10th. 1710.

PROPOSALS for Printing the First Volume of the *BRITISH APOLLO* in Octavo, which is now in the Press, and will be Publish'd in *Michaelmas-Term* next, are to be had at Mr. *Clark*'s Bookseller in *Birchin-Lane*, near the *Royal-Exchange*, Mr. *Carter*'s at the *Rose* and *Crown*, in St. *Paul*'s-*Church-Yard*, Mr. *Harbin*'s at the *Rose* next Door to the *Globe-Tavern* in the *Strand*, near *Charing-Cross*, and of the Printer hereof, *J. Mayo* over against *Water-Lane Fleet-Street*, or of the Men in their Walks.

GENTLEMEN,

Q. YOUR *Ingenious and Judicious Solving some seeming Inconsistencies in* Holy-Scripture, *has Incouraged me to desire the Solution of the Subsequent Difficulty.*

It is the well known Story in Sacred Writ, *of* Lot *and his two Daughters: Now amongst others, there are two Difficulties in the said History.* 1st. *What could induce them to Commit so Infamous an Action, since they knew that* Abraham *their Kinsman was Alive, out of whose Family they might have chosen Husbands.* 2dly. *The next expressly tells us, that* Lot *perceived not when they lay down, nor when they rose up, which to me is the most Unaccountable thing I ever heard of, for a Man to get two Sons one Night after another, and yet not remember any thing of the Matter.*

Gentlemen, *Perhaps you may think I delight to Cavil and find Faults in* Holy Scripture, *when there is none at all; but I do Solemnly profess there is no Man can have a greater Veneration for those* Sacred Oracles *than my self. If when your Conveniency will permit, you will please distinctly to Answer and Resolve the above Queries, it will be a renewed Obligation, and shall always be acknowledg'd as such, By,*

Your Oblig'd Subscriber, STREPHON.

A. The Book of *Genesis*, being but a very short *Epitome* of the History of the World in the first Ages of it, it is scarce to be expected but that some Difficulties and Obscurities, may arise from that Brevity, with which Matters of Fact are related, which yet, had the Causes and Circumstances of them been more fully Explained, wou'd Vanish. We ought therefore to make the same equitable allowance for the shortness of Sacred as well as we do for Profane History, and to think that what is wanting in the fulness of any Story is abundantly made up by the Credit of the Historian. Tho' this in general ought to be granted, we think notwithstanding the Present Story of *Lot*'s Incest to be Circumstantially enough related, and clear of the Difficulties with which the Querist Charges it. For as to the first Objection, it is plain that *Lot* with his two Daughters retired out of *Zoar* into the Cave in the Mountain for Fear of being Corrupted with the Iniquity of that Place, and by what is said *Chap.* 19. *Ver.* 31*st.* wherein the First-born Complains, *that there is not a Man in the Earth to come in unto us*, it seems as if *Lot* had given them a strict Charge to have no farther Conversation with the rest of Mankind: Nor does it appear by the Sequel of the Story that he ever removed out of the Cave with them but there Finished his Days. These Things might give his Daughters uneasy Apprehensions, as if they were to Live there in Solitude all their Days, and so end their Race with their Lives; the preventing of which was by them no doubt looked upon as a Matter of Extream Necessity and sufficient to justify their Unnatural and Monstrous Attempt. They were notwithstanding very sensible of the Odiousness of such a Fact, and that their Father cou'd never be brought to Comply with them while he was in his Senses, and therefore they made him Drunk even to a Degree of Stupidity before they durst Practise upon him. Why shou'd it then be wondred that he was Insensible of what he did? And as to what the Querist Objects, that they might have chosen

Husbands out of *Abraham*'s Family, it is very probable that before the Commission of this Fact, *Abraham* with his Family had removed out of that Country to *Gerar*, notwithstanding this his Removal is afterwards mentioned. Or there might be other Reasons for this which are too Obvious to be Explained.

Q. Gentlemen, *I have for many Years Liv'd in Town (tho' I have a Plentiful Estate in the Country, and a Fair Seat upon it) on this Consideration: That 'tis always observ'd, Persons of the most Polite Conversation and Brightest Parts, in every Nation, flock to the Court or Metropolis of each Kingdom, by Consequence 'tis there where a Man may most probably Improve himself, in all the most valuable Qualifications, and may best Learn, how to acquire such Conduct, as to acquaint himself with Honor, and leave behind him such a Reputable Character, as may distinguish his, from Common Dust, and give great Satisfaction to his Posterity. But alas! the Town is now so divided into Factions, who have such different Notions of Things, that it seems to me impossible for a Man by any Conduct, to secure to himself any of these ends: If he inclines to no Party, he is despised by all; if to one, he is hated by the other, which shou'd it get the Ascendant, all his best Efforts, how sincerely so ever intended, will be exploded with Infamy. Now except* Apollo, *can inform me, how I may manage my Affairs so, that if I cannot be assur'd of making an Honorable Exit, I am resolv'd to retire to the Country, and seclude my self from all Conversation, except of one particular Friend and my Books, Live unnoted and Die forgotten, rather than endeavor to continue my Memory on such Precarious Terms.*

A. We must Confess it is a very Difficult thing for a Man at this Juncture, so to behave himself, as that he may be secure of making an Honorable Exit, with a General Applause; tho' it may be possible, at least so to acquit himself, as that he may secure his Memory from Detraction. The best Methods we at Present conceive are, *viz.* Look into History for Examples of Men, who have come off with the clearest Characters, in the Opinion of the best Authors of those times, and in such times, where Circumstances of Affairs, come nearest to those of the Present Times; Conform yourself to their Principles, as a Foundation to Build upon, but be not so restrain'd by them, as not to be ready to quit any of them, on Stronger Reasons offer'd to you. When you find any one violently Opinionated in any Party, be upon your Guard, and Careful how you suck in his Notions, for you may Conclude he is Guilty of some Errors, for 'tis impossible to be strongly Opinionated and be Wise, for a Wise Man is always diffident of himself. Their Heat is an Enemy to their Improvement, since it will not give them leave to set things in a right Light: they are sure they are in the right and 'tis very difficult to convince such they are in the wrong; 'tis a Difficulty next to the Changing their Natures. When you happen to Converse with such (as indeed most Men now are such) first endeavor to reduce them to Coolness, then offer nothing as your Opinion, but as the Dictates of Reason; when you find the least Glimpse of Reason against you, be more ready to yeild, than to require Submission on better Evidence on your own side Divest your *self* absolutely of your *self*, the better to induce him to do the like. Avoid (tho' with all possible Civility) as much as may be any Communication with those, who only follow their Leaders by an Implicite Faith, for all Arguments are lost on such; nor matters it much, what Judgment they pass upon you; and you will not find the more inform'd part of Mankind, how much soever addicted to a party, to be so difficult to be brought to Reason. These Observations with a strict regard in general to your Morals, will put your Reputation beyond the reach of the most Malicious Tongues; For *Virtue* has that force in its self, besides the Assistance it may depend upon from Heav'n, that however it may seem Oppress'd for a while, it always Conquers and generally Triumphs in the end. And 'tis generally to be observed that in all Party-Disputes, one rarely gains any great Ascendant, 'till they can Muster up Objections, against the Morals of the other; therefore a Man rarely looses much Honor in any Cause, 'till he Cherishes Traitors within, to assist the Enemy without. Retire not then on vain Apprehensions of what has a bare possibility in Nature, least you betray more of Pusillanimity, than Sound Judgment in your Choice.

Q. Gentlemen, *I desire you would please to inform me what Books to Read whereby I may be rightly inform'd and have an Impartial Account of every thing Material concerning the late Revolution. And you will Oblige,* Honest Gentlemen, *Your Humble Servant and Subscriber,* &c.

A. We do not know any Book of Note that has been Writ of those Times that has not (at least by by one Party) been Condemned for it's Partiality and False Representations even of Matters of Fact. Abating this Exception, the Transactions of those Times are Copiously enough Related in the Third Vol. of the History of *England*, which the Publick has ascribed to Dr. *Kennet*.

POEMS.

Q. APOLLO, *in Truth,*
I've been from my South,
One very much given to Love;
And always have try'd,
Where e'er I apply'd,
That Sweetest of Passions t' improve.

I have with much Pains,
Observ'd all the Strains,
In which it appears in each Breast;
Both Nature and Art,
I find bears a part,
And thus it is three ways exprest.

That part of Mankind,
Of best-inform'd Mind,
Bright Thoughts, and of Exquisite Sense;
Tart Quarrels and Bites,
Mix with their Delights,
Yet they make to it's Joys, most Pretense.

The next sort are these
(And seem most at Ease)
Who never in Quarrels are seen;
Nor Raptures e'er Tast,
Which Vanish in hast,
But their Lives are all smooth, and Serene.

Another sort bare,
Fierce Flames for the Fair,
To enjoy to the most of their Pow'r;
And when they have done,
Away they are gone,
Nor Care were they Hang'd the next Hour.

Now say, Great Apollo,
Whose Judgment all follow
In Love, *since your Province it is;*
Which of all these Lovers,
Most Pleasure discovers,
Most Happiness and Truest Bliss?

A. The last *Passion* must
Be call'd, only *Lust,*
Which holds to *Enjoy* and no longer;
The Joy of the *Brute,*
Nay, these, *They* Confute
In their Choice, since their *Appetite*'s stronger.

The next ne'er Improve,
The Passion of *Love,*
Altho' in a Constant *Agreeing;*
That State where they feel,
No *Declining,* nor *Zeal,*
Is a Kind of *Insensible Being,*

The First Truly Taft,
Love's Choicest Repast,
In a Sphere more Extaticly moving;
Their Moments of Joy,
Which never can Cloy,
Surpass a whole Age of Dull Loving.

Those Quarrels and Bites,
Add to their Delights,
I'th Pleasures of be'ng Reconcil'd;
Such soft Recantations,
Such Tender Oblations,
Like Balmy Reft, when we have Toyl'd.

All *Pleasures* on Earth,
Acknowledg their Birth,
To *Pain,* e'er we highly are pleas'd;
Thus *Hunger* and *Thirst,*
Our *Appetites* first,
Create, e'er with Joy they are eas'd.

Thus *Health* we beft Taft,
Upon *Sickness* past,
And *Plenty,* when *Want* has preceeded;
Th' Enjoyment we gain,
Without any Pain,
But rarely, if ever is heeded.

Who ever in Story,
Bright *Honor* and *Glory,*
T'obtain without *Danger* did think;
And *Love* if not Croft,
In it self wou'd be loft,
Or into dull *Lethargy* sink.

Thus th' *Heav'ns* sometimes Low'r,
In Clouds and a Show'r,
But when *Phœbus* breaks out again;
All the Air which we meet,
Is so Charming and Sweet,
We give thanks for the Clouds and the Rain.

Q. Apollo, *Resolve me,*
Since nothing you find,
Too Difficult, or too
Obscure for your Mind:
If Printing, *or* Powder
Prepar'd for the Gun,
Most Good, for the Service,
Of Mankind have done:
And which of the two,
Is esteemed to be;
To Man, the most Fatal,
And worst Enemy.
If this you Resolve,
May the first ever Raise
Your Fame, *and the last,*
Bellow out your loud Praise.

A. The First the best Service
Hath always Expreft,
As by the Effects,
Must needs be Confest:
By this we the *Arts*
And the *Sciences* Learn,
And all the *Arcana*
Of *Nature* discern:
Religion by this,
Does open our Eyes,
The World too by this,
We are Taught to despise:
Results of Deep *Learning,*
Are Cheaply by this,
Reduc'd to our view,
And the Methods to Bliss:
Of Ancienter Birth too,
It is than the other,
And all its Effects,
Are carried further.
This far more Mischeivous,
We must too allow,
Since from it, Effects far,
More Fatally flow.
All Heresies creep by this
Into the World,
And all the Disorders,
About it are Hurl'd:

All

All Factions Fomented
By this in the State;
And this spreads abroad,
All the Seeds of Debate.
The last it's most dreadful
Effects always draws,
From this, as it's first,
And Principal Cause.
Disputes and Distractions,
Which this first Occasions,
Make way for the other,
To bring Desolations:
Thus this when right us'd,
Is the Noblest of Friends,
But when 'tis abus'd,
Has the most Fatal Ends.

☞ Any Person may have the *Index* to the Second Volume of the *British Apollo*, also whole Sets Bound or Unbound, and Single Sheets to make up Sets of the said Volume, of the Men in their Walks, or of *J. Mayo*, over against *Water-Lane, Fleet-Street*.

SIR,

THE Letters from Ostend, July the 14th. Advise, that on the 12th Instant, the Confederate Army Marched from Wimy that Morning in 4 Columns, and the Right advanced to Villers Bruslain, betweeu the Scource of the Scarpe and the Little River Lave; That the Mareschal de Villars made the same Day (being the 12th) another Motion and came nearer Arras, sending 8 Squadrons over the Scarpe to observe the Motions of the Allies; That the Princes of Savoy and Marlborough have their Quarters at Villers Bruslain; That the Mareschal de Villars having Reinforc'd his Army with the Garrisons of Conde, Valenciennes and other Places on that Place, is come to Encamp in his New Lines near Arras, which is a Post wherein he cannot be Attackt; That Princes of Savoy and Marlborough have thereupon thought fit to Besiege Bethune, and the Troops design'd for the same are to March to Morrow. They Consist of 25 Battalions Commanded by the Generals, Schuylemberg and Fagel, and 18 Squadrons Commanded by Lieutenant General Wood; and that Strong Parties are sent into Boulonnois and Picardy to Force those Countries to Pay the Contributions Demanded of them. The Advices from the Hague, July the 15th, are that 19 East-India Ships homeward Bound are arrived in the Texel with 5 English, viz. The Kent, Heathcot, Northumberland, Herne and Stretham, all Richly Laden, and that an Express from the Army has brought Advice that Bethune was that Day to be Invested.

The Letters from Spithead, Advise that on the 3d Instant arrived there Her Majesty's Ships, Lancaster and Yarmouth fro Plymouth, having on Board, 7 Companies of Lieutenant General Seymour's Regiment; That on the 4th came in there, my Lord Marquiss of Camarthen in the Royal Ann Galley with the Swallow's Prize, and two Swedes his Lordship has brought in, Laden with Oyl, Cochinele, and several Chests of Money from Cadiz, upon Suspicion of their being French Effects, and Bound to France.

Which is all from Yours, &c.

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